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HOUSE BILL 2814

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Quall, Haigh, Morris, Sullivan, Pearson, Miloscia, Ericksen, Takko, Bailey, Blake, Smith, McCoy, and Haler

Read first time 01/16/08. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to criteria for siting a future institution of  
2 higher education; creating new sections; and providing an expiration  
3 date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes the statewide  
6 need for increased capacity and the already existing array of  
7 educational opportunities for students in King and south Snohomish  
8 counties and further finds that the needs of students in north  
9 Snohomish, Island, and Skagit counties should equally receive  
10 consideration. To this end, potential sites at Smokey Point in  
11 Marysville and Pacific Station in Everett should each receive careful  
12 consideration using all of the siting studies conducted in the area.

13            The legislature finds that, when considering the location of future  
14 institutions of higher education in the north Puget Sound region,  
15 responding to the future needs of students should be the paramount  
16 consideration. Locations that can adequately accommodate the future  
17 educational and recreational needs of five thousand students or more,  
18 without further real estate acquisition, must be given priority.

1 The legislature further finds that state investments in higher  
2 education should focus on increasing the educational opportunities of  
3 students, not urban renewal, enhancing urban infrastructure, or  
4 increasing parking capacity. Facilities must be located so that they  
5 do not interfere with present or future major transportation  
6 interfaces. The legislature finds that environmental, transportation,  
7 and local economic impacts must be carefully considered with input from  
8 the state department of ecology and the department of transportation.

9 The legislature intends to prioritize the criteria used to select  
10 sites for an institution of higher education in the north Puget Sound  
11 region.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) When considering the location of an  
13 institution of higher education in the north Puget Sound region, the  
14 legislature shall give primary consideration to whether the potential  
15 site is centrally located in the Snohomish, Island, and Skagit county  
16 area, space for adequate parking and transit facilities, and  
17 additionally to the availability of:

18 (a) Properly zoned land with sufficient acreage to accommodate the  
19 educational and recreational needs of a future five thousand student  
20 institution;

21 (b) Existing infrastructure including water, sewer, regional storm  
22 water facilities, and transportation access;

23 (c) Land that does not pose significant environmental issues;

24 (d) Interim facilities to accommodate to facilitate startup;

25 (e) Close-by opportunities for internship programs in programs  
26 emphasized by the institution; and

27 (f) Significant support from area communities and interest groups.

28 (2) This section expires July 1, 2009.

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